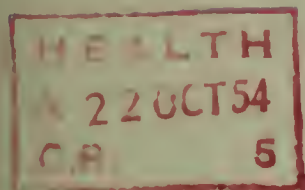


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# BOROUGH OF RYE



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

# Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1953

By

M. I. SILVERTON, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
of the Rye Borough Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

The health of the Borough continues to compare favourably with the rest of England and Wales, the Corrected Death Rate being 11.1 for the Borough as against 11.4 for the whole of England and Wales.

The Immunisation campaign against Diptheria has proved so successful that no cases have been reported in this Borough for the past nine years.

New housing has been pushed ahead and the speedy rehousing of young families living in conditions militating against their welfare has been much appreciated.

I am grateful to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector for their willing co-operation at all times.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has supplied the statistical information relevant to the Sanitary circumstances of the Borough given in this report. It will be noted that his other official duties include those of Borough Surveyor and Water Superintendent, and that he has included reports on these matters.

I am obliged to the Town Clerk and the Treasurer for their courtesy and help.

I wish to thank you for your encouragement and support during the past year.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

M.I. SILVERTON

Medical Officer of Health.

The Watch Oak,  
BATTLE, Sussex.





(2)

B O R O U G H     O F     R Y E

-----

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:

M. I. SILVERTON, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor, Town  
Planning Officer and Water Superintendent:

H.C.GOWER, M.Inst.R.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

R.C.GREEN, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

The staff of the Battle Rural District Council Public  
Health Department carry out all the clerical work of  
the Medical Officer of Health.

\* Diphtheria Immunisation  
and Vaccination Clerk:

MISS M. H. HEARNshaw

\* (County Staff employed locally)

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE BOROUGH OF RYE

|   | <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1953</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Area of Borough in acres.                                 | 1,021       | 1,021       | 1,021       |
| Population by census (Provisional)                        | 4,511       |             |             |
| Population (Registrar General's<br>estimate for mid-year) | 4,442       | 4,517       | 4,570       |
| Rateable value  | £44,926     | £45,227     | £46,284     |
| Number of inhabited houses                                | 1,515       | 1,542       | 1,575       |
| Number of rateable premises                               | 1,834       | 1,863       | 1,910       |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate                           | £171        | £174        | £179        |





SECTION IBIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES.

|  | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <u>Live Births</u>   |             |               |              |
| Legitimate   | 35          | 37            | 72           |
| Illegitimate   | 2           | 1             | 3            |
|  | <u>37</u>   | <u>38</u>     | <u>75</u>    |
| <u>Stillbirths</u>   |             |               |              |
| Legitimate   | 1           | 1             | 2            |
| Illegitimate   | 0           | 0             | 0            |
|  | <u>1</u>    | <u>1</u>      | <u>2</u>     |
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of home population                             |             |               | 16.4         |
| Corrected Birth Rate   |             |               | 17.7         |
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of home population<br>(England and Wales)      |             |               | 15.5         |
| Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 home population<br>(Borough of Rye)            |             |               | 0.43         |
| Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of home population<br>(England and Wales)      |             |               | 0.35         |
| Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 births (live and still)<br>(Borough of Rye)    |             |               | 25.97        |
| Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 births (live and still)<br>(England and Wales) |             |               | 22.4         |

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES.Deaths

| Year | Male | Female | Total |
|------|------|--------|-------|
| 1948 | 23   | 33     | 56    |
| 1949 | 33   | 33     | 66    |
| 1950 | 21   | 38     | 59    |
| 1951 | 20   | 31     | 51    |
| 1952 | 29   | 33     | 62    |
| 1953 | 37   | 29     | 66    |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Death Rate per 1,000 of home population (Borough of Rye)  | 14.44 |
| Corrected Death Rate for Borough of Rye                   | 11.11 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of home population (England & Wales) | 11.4  |



(4)

It is well known that this Borough is particularly favoured by those persons retiring from active life and is thus heavily weighted for age as compared with England and Wales as a whole, and so we get an apparently increased death rate. The Registrar General is aware of this and has given us a method of overcoming this bias by introducing a "comparability factor" of 0.77 for this Borough, thus giving a Corrected Death Rate of 11.1 which compares with 11.4 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Death Rates.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Deaths of infants under 1 year (Borough of Rye)   | Two  |
| Infant Death Rate per 1,000 live births   | 26.6 |
| Infant Death Rate per 1,000 related live births<br>(England and Wales)                        | 26.8 |
| Death Rate for diarrhoea (infants under 2 years)<br>per 1,000 live births (Borough of Rye)    | Nil  |
| Death Rate for diarrhoea (infants under 2 years)<br>per 1,000 live births (England and Wales) | 1.1  |

Maternal Deaths.

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Borough of Rye ... ..  | Nil  |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and<br>still births, Borough of Rye ... | Nil  |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and<br>still births, England & Wales    | 0.76 |

Death Rates per 1,000 home population for certain specific causes.

|  | England and Wales |      | Borough of Rye |      |
|--|-------------------|------|----------------|------|
|  | 1952              | 1953 | 1952           | 1953 |
| Typhoid and paratyphoid                      | 0.00              | 0.00 | Nil            | Nil  |
| Whooping Cough                               | 0.00              | 0.00 | Nil            | Nil  |
| Diphtheria                                   | 0.00              | 0.00 | Nil            | Nil  |
| Tuberculosis                                 | 0.24              | 0.20 | Nil            | 0.65 |
| Influenza                                    | 0.04              | 0.16 | Nil            | 0.43 |
| Smallpox                                     | 0.00              | 0.00 | Nil            | Nil  |
| Pneumonia                                    | 0.47              | 0.55 | Nil            | 0.43 |
| Acute poliomyelitis and<br>polioencephalitis | 0.01              | 0.01 | 0.44           | Nil  |



Detailed Causes of Death

| Causes of Death                        | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis (respiratory)             | 3    | 0      | 3     |
| Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms      | 7    | 5      | 12    |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system     | 1    | 4      | 5     |
| Coronary disease, angina               | 2    | 2      | 4     |
| Hypertension with heart diseases       | 1    | 3      | 4     |
| Other heart diseases                   | 7    | 9      | 16    |
| Other circulatory diseases             | 0    | 2      | 2     |
| Influenza                              | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Bronchitis                             | 2    | 0      | 2     |
| Pneumonia                              | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum          | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Hyperplasia of prostate                | 1    | 0      | 1     |
| Congenital malformations               | 2    | 0      | 2     |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 3    | 1      | 4     |
| Motor vehicle accidents                | 1    | 0      | 1     |
| Accidents, other than motor            | 2    | 0      | 2     |
| Suicide                                | 1    | 0      | 1     |
| Totals                                 | 37   | 29     | 66    |

The chief causes of death in order of frequency were:-

|   | 1952       | 1953       |
|---|------------|------------|
| (i) Diseases of the heart and<br>circulatory system... .. | 34 (54.8%) | 24 (36.3%) |
| (ii) Malignant neoplasms (cancer). ...                    | 8 (12.9%)  | 12 (18.1%) |
| (iii) Vascular lesions of the nervous<br>system           | 5 (11.2%)  | 5 (7.5%)   |

DEATHS - 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

|                 | Total<br>Deaths<br>1952 | No. of<br>Deaths<br>65 yrs<br>& over | Percentage<br>of total<br>deaths | Total<br>Deaths<br>1953 | No. of<br>Deaths<br>65 yrs<br>& over | Percentage<br>of total<br>deaths |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rye Borough     | 62                      | 47                                   | 75.8                             | 66                      | 47                                   | 71.2                             |
| England & Wales | 40,368                  | 26,785                               | 66.3                             | 38,636                  | 25,821                               | 66.8                             |





TUBERCULOSIS

|   | Pulmonary Cases |    |       | Non-pulmonary Cases |   |       | Total cases (all forms) |    |       |
|---|-----------------|----|-------|---------------------|---|-------|-------------------------|----|-------|
|   | M               | F  | Total | M                   | F | Total | M                       | F  | Total |
| 1. No. on register at 1st January, 1953             | 9               | 13 | 22    | 3                   | 4 | 7     | 12                      | 17 | 29    |
| 2. Cases previously removed and re-notified in 1953 | -               | -  | -     | -                   | - | -     | -                       | -  | -     |
| 3. Primary notifications received in 1953           | 4               | -  | 4     | -                   | - | -     | 4                       | -  | 4     |
| 4. Cases moved in to area as transfers              | 1               | -  | 1     | -                   | - | -     | 1                       | -  | 1     |
| Totals  | 14              | 13 | 27    | 3                   | 4 | 7     | 17                      | 17 | 34    |
| 5. Cases removed from Register in 1953              | 4               | 3  | 7     | 1                   | 2 | 3     | 5                       | 5  | 10    |
| 6. Number on Register at 1st December, 1953         | 10              | 10 | 20    | 2                   | 2 | 4     | 12                      | 12 | 24    |

One pulmonary case discovered after death - see Table "Detailed Causes of Death"

\* ANALYSIS OF REMOVALS IN 1953  
 (See para. 5 in above Table)

|                  | Pulmonary Cases |   | Non-pulmonary Cases |   | Total cases (all forms) |   |       |
|------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------|
|                  | M               | F | M                   | F | M                       | F | Total |
| Left the Borough | -               | 1 | -                   | - | -                       | 1 | 1     |
| Cured            | 2               | 2 | 1                   | 2 | 3                       | 4 | 7     |
| Died             | 2               | - | -                   | - | 2                       | - | 2     |
|                  | 4               | 3 | 1                   | 2 | 5                       | 5 | 10    |

TABULATED LIST IN AGE GROUPS OF NEW CASES NOTIFIED IN THIS BOROUGH  
AND ALL DEATHS DURING THE CURRENT YEAR

| Age       | New Cases (Primary Notifications) |   |               |   | All Deaths |   |               |   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|---|------------|---|---------------|---|
|           | Pulmonary                         |   | Non-pulmonary |   | Pulmonary  |   | Non-pulmonary |   |
|           | M                                 | F | M             | F | M          | F | M             | F |
| 0 - 2     | -                                 | - | -             | - | -          | - | -             | - |
| 3 - 5     | -                                 | - | -             | - | -          | - | -             | - |
| 6 - 10    | -                                 | - | -             | - | -          | - | -             | - |
| 11 - 15   | -                                 | - | -             | - | -          | - | -             | - |
| 16 - 25   | 1                                 | - | -             | - | -          | - | -             | - |
| 26 - 45   | 2                                 | - | -             | - | -          | - | -             | - |
| 46 - 60   | -                                 | - | -             | - | 1          | - | -             | - |
| 61 & over | 1                                 | - | -             | - | 2          | - | -             | - |
| TOTALS    | 4                                 | - | -             | - | 3          | - | -             | - |



INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASESComparative Statistics for the years 1948 - 19531st January - 31st December, respectively

|                         | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever           | 4    | 4    | 13   | 10   | 22   | 2    |
| Measles                 | 132  | 30   | 0    | 116  | 8    | 156  |
| Pneumonia               | 0    | 13   | 3    | 12   | 12   | 10   |
| Erysipelas              | 1    | 4    | 2    | 3    | 1    | 2    |
| Whooping cough          | 76   | 0    | 58   | 54   | 1    | 26   |
| Poliomyelitis           | 0    | 0    | 2    | 2    | 16   | 0    |
| Meningococcal infection | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    |

Poliomyelitis.

Although 1953 showed a moderate incidence in poliomyelitis in England and Wales, this Borough was fortunately free from this disease.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to note that for the past nine years this Borough has been free from this disease.

The average deaths for England and Wales for the period 1931/1940 was 2,800 per year. The deaths for the current year (England and Wales) were 23.

There is no doubt that immunisation is responsible for this dramatic reduction in mortality.

Relevant statistics are on page 9.

Measles.

There was a sharply increased incidence in 1953 in contrast to the previous year. 150 cases or 96% of the total number occurred in the first quarter of the year.

There were no deaths from measles.

Scarlet Fever.

There was a marked decrease during 1953. The disease was mild in character and there were no admissions to hospital.

Dysentery.Food Poisoning Outbreaks in 1953.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Total number of outbreaks... | Nil |
| Number of cases ... ..       | Nil |
| Number of Deaths ... ..      | Nil |

Other diseases.

The incidence of the other infectious diseases has no particular significance.



SEASONAL INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
DURING 1953

|                | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apl | May | Jun | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | TOTALS |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Scarlet Fever  | -   | 1   | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -    | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2      |
| Measles        | 29  | 111 | 10  | 3   | -   | 3   | -    | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 156    |
| Pneumonia      | 4   | 1   | 1   | -   | 1   | 1   | -    | -   | -   | -   | -   | 2   | 10     |
| Erysipelas     | -   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | -   | -    | -   | 1   | -   | -   | -   | 2      |
| Whooping Cough | -   | -   | 2   | 8   | 8   | -   | 2    | 5   | -   | 1   | -   | -   | 26     |
| TOTALS         | 33  | 113 | 13  | 11  | 11  | 4   | 2    | 5   | 1   | 1   | -   | 2   | 196    |

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

|              | Scarlet<br>Fever | Measles | Pneumonia | Erysip-<br>elas | Whooping<br>Cough | TOTALS |
|--------------|------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Under 1 year | -                | 4       | 1         | -               | 1                 | 6      |
| 1 year       | -                | 10      | 1         | -               | 2                 | 13     |
| 2 years      | 1                | 14      | -         | -               | 4                 | 19     |
| 3 years      | -                | 19      | -         | -               | -                 | 19     |
| 4 years      | 1                | 18      | 2         | -               | 6                 | 27     |
| 5-10 years   | -                | 79      | 1         | -               | 12                | 92     |
| 11-15 years  | -                | 5       | -         | -               | -                 | 5      |
| 16-25 years  | -                | 3       | 1         | -               | 1                 | 5      |
| 26-35 years  | -                | 4       | 1         | 1               | -                 | 6      |
| 36-45 years  | -                | -       | -         | -               | -                 | -      |
| 46-65 years  | -                | -       | 1         | 1               | -                 | 2      |
| Over 65      | -                | -       | 2         | -               | -                 | 2      |
|              | 2                | 156     | 10        | 2               | 26                | 196    |





DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During 1953 the following children received injections:-

| <u>Primary Immunisation</u>   | <u>Under 1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5-9</u> | <u>10-14</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Treated at Clinics            | 3              | 12       | 2        | 1        | 3        | 12         | 2            | 35           |
| By Private Doctors            | 25             | 22       | 2        | -        | -        | -          | -            | 49           |
| <u>Re-inforcing injection</u> |                |          |          |          |          |            |              |              |
| Treated at Clinics            | -              | -        | -        | -        | 4        | 61         | 12           | 77           |
| By Private Doctors            | -              | -        | -        | -        | 5        | 23         | -            | 28           |
| Totals - Under 5              |                |          |          |          |          |            |              |              |
| 5-14 (inc)                    |                |          |          |          |          |            |              |              |
| Re-inforcing                  |                |          |          |          |          |            |              |              |
| 70                            |                |          |          |          |          |            |              |              |
| 14                            |                |          |          |          |          |            |              |              |
| 105                           |                |          |          |          |          |            |              |              |

The number of children under 15 years of age, resident in the Borough, who had been immunised by 31st December, 1953:-

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Under 5 years ... .. | 257        |
| 5-14 (inc)... ..     | 642        |
|                      | <u>899</u> |

Comparative figures for the past three years:-

|                               | <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u>      | <u>1953</u>      |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| No.immunised under 5 years    | 285         | 264              | 257              |
| Child population (under 5)    | 420         | 382 <sup>x</sup> | 369 <sup>x</sup> |
| Percentage immunised          | 67.85%      | 69.11%           | 69.64%           |
| No.immunised 5-14 (inclusive) | 595         | 597              | 642              |
| Child population (under 5)    | 610         | 649 <sup>x</sup> | 672 <sup>x</sup> |
| Percentage immunised          | 97.54%      | 91.98%           | 95.53%           |

x The Registrar General is unable to supply population figures. The figures given are therefore estimated.

VACCINATION

Number vaccinated during 1953:-

|                     | <u>Under 1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2-4</u> | <u>5-14</u> | <u>15 or over</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|----------|------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Primary vaccination | 53             | 2        | 1          | 5           | 2                 | 63           |
| Re-vaccination      | -              | 1        | 1          | 3           | 15                | 20           |

Comparative figures for the past three years:-

|                     | <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1953</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Primary vaccination | 91          | 53          | 63          |
| Re-vaccination      | 96          | 18          | 20          |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Number of babies born in 1953... ..                     | 75     |
| Number of babies under 1 year vaccinated in 1953 ... .. | 53     |
| Percentage vaccinated in 1953 ... ..                    | 70.66% |

Comparative percentages.

|  | <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1953</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | 45.09%      | 66.66%      | 70.66%      |



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH(A) PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.\*(i) Ambulance Service

|         | <u>1950</u> | <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1953</u> |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cases   | 533         | 546         | 627         | 805         |
| Mileage | 16,142      | 13,626      | 14,208      | 16,959      |

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continued to provide a first class service in this Borough.

(ii) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under School Age.(iii) Contraceptive Advice.

Subject to the limitation that advice is only given where pregnancy or childbirth is liable to be injurious to the health of the mother, arrangements are made for contraceptive advice to be given to married women at a clinic conducted by Hastings Corporation.

(iv) District Nurses (Midwives) and Health Visitors.(v) Home Help Service.(vi) Hospital Car Service.

The Hospital Car Service in this county is provided entirely by the joint organisation of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Area Transport Office for the Borough of Rye is at 8, Endwell Road, Bexhill-on-Sea (Telephone: Bexhill 152).

(vii) Infant Welfare Centre.

The Infant Welfare Centre is held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in every month at the Youth Club Centre, Lion Street, Rye.

\*(viii) Immunisation and Vaccination Service.

Please refer to page 9 for statistics.

(ix) Mental Health Service.(x) Registration of Nursing Homes.

There are no registered Nursing Homes in the Borough of Rye.

(xi) School Dental Service.(xii) School Medical Service (\*Routine medical examinations including the assessment of handicapped pupils).

\* Delegated duties to the District Medical Officer of Health.



(B) HOSPITALS

The following are the main hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents in the Borough of Rye:-

Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge,  
Battle Hospital, Battle,  
Memorial Hospital, Rye Foreign,  
Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings (including V.D.Clinic),  
Mount Pleasant Isolation Hospital, Hastings,  
St.Helen's Hospital, Hastings,  
Fernbank Maternity Home, Hastings,  
Buchanan Hospital, St.Leonards on Sea,  
Eversfield Chest Hospital, St.Leonards on Sea,  
Hellingly Hospital, Hellingly,  
Pembury Hospital, Pembury,  
Fairlight Sanatorium, Fairlight,  
Hill House, Rye Foreign.

They are all administered by the South-Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through their respective Hospital Management Committees.

(C) PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, and I am grateful to the Director (Doctor J.E.Jameson) for his help and co-operation.

(D) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

(a) Section 47. Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

Fortunately it was not found necessary to invoke these provisions during the year under review.

(b) Section 50. Burial or Cremation of the Dead.

No action was necessary under this Section.

(E) HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE.

During the period 1st April, 1953 to 31st March, 1954, 2,120 visits to 147 patients were made in the Borough of Rye and Battle Rural District, compared with 2,552 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

This service is much appreciated by all concerned.

(F) NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

Liaison has been maintained.







CLEAN FOOD

The Sanitary Inspectors exercise perpetual vigilance throughout the Borough and every opportunity is taken to advise and educate the food handlers. This is achieved by personal inspections, interviews and the dissemination of relevant pamphlets, and in this connection the new booklet "Clean Catering" published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office is especially valuable.

Protection of foodstuffs from flies and droplet infection sprayed by customers and staff onto exposed foods while awaiting disposal are continually being advocated.

The impervious plastic type working surfaces are a great help in hygienic food preparation and storage, their widespread use is strongly advised, ease of cleaning and lasting qualities are an eventual economy apart from the pleasing appearance.

Personal hygiene is stressed at all times; washing the hands after the use of the lavatory must be the cornerstone of all instructions to food handlers; owners of catering establishments are asked to co-operate by making this essential amenity easily available.

MILK PRODUCTION AND PRODUCERS

The following is a comparative estimate of the percentages of different types of milk produced in the surrounding district:-

|                 | <u>1949</u> | <u>1950</u> | <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1953</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| T.T milk        | 20%         | 29.3%       | 35.35%      | 41.0%       | 47.5%       |
| Accredited milk | 10%         | 5.4%        | 8.72%       | 5.1%        | 3.7%        |
| Undesignated    | 70%         | 65.3%       | 55.93%      | 53.8%       | 48.8%       |

The policy of submitting samples of milk for biological testing in order to discover the presence of tuberculous infection and brucellosis was continued.

Although the progressive increase in the percentage of T.T milk is noted with satisfaction, this is tempered in large measure by the fact that milk of this type is accepted as "safe" in all respects.

This assumption is a fallacy which should be dispelled, it is merely "safe" as regards the absence of Tubercle Bacilli, but it may and sometimes does contain other organisms which are injurious to health.



During the year I received informal notification from a hospital that they were treating a patient suffering from Undulant Fever (*Brucella Abortus* infection, a non-notifiable disease). Investigation revealed that he had been in the habit of drinking raw milk from a T.T herd. He eventually died and the post mortem confirmed the presence of this disease. The case was published by me in an article which appeared in the Medical Officer on 9th April, 1954.

This is a warning that pasteurised milk is the only certain, safe milk and that raw milks of any designation are liable to contain pathogenic organisms. The cream level is decreased by about 1/7th when pasteurised, however, this is not lost but merely disseminated throughout the milk, the nutritional value is not at all impaired.

### INDUSTRIES

The numbers employed in the main industries in the Borough are given below. Working conditions are generally good and the employers have been co-operative. There were no outworkers.

A comparison is made with the previous year:-

|                             | Male | 1952<br>Female | Total | Male | 1953<br>Female | Total |
|-----------------------------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------------|-------|
| Aerated Water Manufacturers | 2    | 1              | 3     | 6    | 4              | 10    |
| Bakeries                    | 21   | 29             | 50    | 16   | 20             | 36    |
| Bedding Makers              | 3    | 3              | 6     | 3    | 3              | 6     |
| Builders                    | 124  | 2              | 126   | 94   | 2              | 96    |
| Corn Chandlers              | 16   | 2              | 18    | 20   | 1              | 21    |
| Dyers and Cleaners          | -    | -              | -     | 7    | 4              | 11    |
| Engineering Works           | 118  | 19             | 137   | 120  | 15             | 135   |
| Furniture Removers          | 14   | 1              | 15    | 13   | 1              | 14    |
| Laundries                   | 8    | 50             | 58    | 10   | 50             | 60    |
| Nursery Gardens             | 3    | -              | 3     | 3    | 1              | 4     |
| Pottery Works               | 5    | 2              | 7     | 4    | 5              | 9     |
| Printing Works              | 11   | 8              | 19    | 12   | 6              | 18    |
| Sawmills                    | 7    | 2              | 9     | 9    | 2              | 11    |
| Ship Repairing              | 3    | -              | 3     | 5    | -              | 5     |
| Wastepaper Sorters          | 5    | 1              | 6     | 4    | 1              | 5     |

#### Shipping:

16 vessels are registered at the port of Rye.  
 2 foreign ships brought cargoes of Timber.  
 3 foreign ships brought cargoes of Bricks.  
 20 yachts from overseas (pleasure craft) used  
 Rye berthing facilities.

It has been ascertained that there are 102 vessels engaged in fishing between Hastings and Dungeness. They make use of the facilities available at Rye from time to time.

Shop-keeping and Catering: Shop-keeping and catering are two mainstays which contribute greatly to the prosperity of the Town.





SECTION IIThe Chief Sanitary Inspector reports:-PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

|                         | <u>Visits.</u> | <u>Informal notices<br/>served</u> | <u>Informal Notices<br/>complied with.</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Alleged nuisances       | 122            | 15                                 | 15   |
| Smoke nuisances         | 10             | 2                                  | 2  |
| Provision of dustbins   | 12             | 4                                  | 4  |
| Existing drains         | 44             | 9                                  | 9  |
| New building work       | 50             | -                                  | -  |
| Infectious diseases     | 10             | 2 houses disinfected               |  |
| Vermin and insect pests | -              | 15 houses disinfected              |  |

HOUSING ACT, 1936

392 inspections and re-inspections of dwelling houses were carried out for the following reasons:-

1. Houses controlled by the Borough Council.
2. Investigations of complaints by Tenants.
3. Applications for re-housing on medical grounds, overcrowding, etc.

12 informal notices were served requesting house repairs and all were complied with.

The following improvements have been carried out at properties controlled by the Borough Council:-

15 tiled surround fireplaces complete installed in lieu of ranges or combination grates.

3 baths installed.

1 brick built solid fuel copper removed and replaced with gas copper.

17 power and additional lighting points installed at 7 houses.

2 sinks.

HOUSING ACT, 1949

No applications for Grants were received in respect of improvements under the above mentioned Act.





MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

The only dairy premises in the Town are now used for the receipt, storage and distribution of designated milks obtained already bottled from suppliers outside the Town. No processing or bottle washing is carried out on the premises. Frequent inspections of the premises have been made.

The following licences were issued during the year:-

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Dealers licences for "Pasteurised" milk       | - 2 |
| Dealers licences for "Tuberculin Tested" milk | - 2 |

8 samples of milk were taken for examination and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton. All passed the prescribed tests.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.ICE CREAM.

There are now 19 premises registered under the above mentioned Act, all for the storage and sale of ice cream. The bulk of ice cream sold from these premises is pre-packed.

The general standards of hygiene of the ice cream trade in the Borough is good.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The one slaughterhouse remaining in the Town is used almost entirely for occasional emergency slaughter of animals. The premises are old but are kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness.

All animals destined for human consumption are sent to the central slaughterhouse in Hastings.

Inspections of meat and other foods are often made at the request of the retailers who have noted an abnormal condition prior to sale.

80 inspections of food premises (food shops, catering establishments, etc) have been made.

The following is a list of foods inspected during the year and certified as being unfit for human consumption:-

|                     | cwts. | stones. | lbs.             |
|---------------------|-------|---------|------------------|
| Meat                | 4     | 4       | 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| Sausages            | 1     | -       | 2                |
| Meat (Tinned)       | 1     | -       | 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  |
| Bacon               |       |         | 4 $\frac{2}{4}$  |
| Fruit (Tinned)      | 1     | 6       | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  |
| Milk (Tinned)       |       | 1       | 8                |
| Fish (Tinned)       |       | 1       | 10               |
| Fish (Wet)          |       | 3       | 0                |
| Vegetables (Tinned) |       | 3       | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Biscuits            |       | 2       | 5                |
| Miscellaneous       |       |         | 13               |
|                     | 10    | 0       | 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ |



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following is an abstract from particulars supplied to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| No. of complaints received regarding infestations<br>by rats and mice | 120 |
| No. of properties inspected   | 328 |
| No. of minor rat infestations   | 332 |
| No. of mouse infestations   | 24  |
| No. of properties treated by Council operator <sup>x</sup>            | 352 |

x This involves from 4-6 visits to each property.

Rodent Control treatment of sewers was carried out in April and November. Each course of treatment involves inspecting, baiting and poisoning each of the manholes known to exist on the older sewers together with test baiting at manholes on the newer systems. During the year this means that upwards of 250 inspections of sewer manholes are made in this connection.

Opportunity was taken during minor sewer reconstructions to incorporate baiting points at two places.

Visits are made by Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Rodent Control Division) and close liaison is maintained in order that the best possible methods are used.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

12 inspections and visits were made to factories and workplaces.

There were 53 factories on the register at the end of the year, of these 39 used mechanical power whilst the remaining 13 had no mechanical power.

The duties of the Council in connection with the Factories Act, 1938 are mainly concerned with the provision of suitable and adequate sanitary accommodation.

WATER SUPPLY

Routine samples are taken for Bacteriological examination once a month and for chemical analysis once a quarter. Other samples are taken as required.

During 1953, 33 Bacteriological samples (16 unchlorinated and 17 chlorinated) and 5 chemical samples (4 chlorinated and 1 unchlorinated) were taken. All the samples proved to be satisfactory. Samples of water taken after chlorination at all times proved highly satisfactory.

The consumption of water during the year was as follows:-

|                                   |   |                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------|
| Pumped from Cadborough Waterworks | - | 61,073,000        | gallons        |
| Pumped from Military Road         | " | -                 | 11,333,000     |
|                                   |   | <u>72,406,000</u> | <u>gallons</u> |

This represents an increase of 2,493,000 gallons over the consumption figures for 1952.





The distribution of the water consumed was as follows:-

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Borough of Rye             | 64,504,970 gallons        |
| Hastings C.B (Rye Harbour) | 3,548,000 gallons         |
| Battle R.D.C (Playden)     | 4,155,000 gallons         |
| Standpipe                  | 198,030 gallons           |
|                            | <u>72,406,000</u> gallons |

The Cadborough boreholes continued to produce an ample supply of water and at times during the year overflowed some few hours after the cessation of daily pumping.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The automatic sewage ejectors lifted the following amounts of sewage:-

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Station A. Cadborough Marsh    | 731,225 gallons           |
| Station B. Winchelsea Road     | 17,380,800 gallons        |
| Station C. New Winchelsea Road | 1,647,325 gallons         |
| Station D. King's Avenue       | 1,816,535 gallons         |
| Station E. Tilling Green       | 12,648,182 gallons        |
|                                | <u>34,224,067</u> gallons |

#### REFUSE COLLECTION

In all 4,784 cubic yards of refuse have been disposed of at Camber Fields tip. Of this amount 3,436 cubic yards were collected as domestic refuse the remaining 1,384 cubic yards being accounted for by builders refuse, etc., deposited directly at the tip.

#### PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUILDING.

During 1953, 3 houses were completed by private enterprise.

#### CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING

During the year, 6 licences amounting to a value of £7,039 were issued by the Council and 8 licences to a value of £19,547 were issued by the Ministry of Works.

#### SECTION III

##### HOUSING

The Borough Treasurer, who is responsible for lettings of Council Houses has supplied the following information:-

Accommodation under the letting control of the Council at the 31st, December, 1953:-

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Assisted Schemes - Pre-war houses          | 115        |
| Assisted Schemes - Post-war houses & flats | 227        |
| Expired leases - pre 1914 houses           | 93         |
| Requisitioned houses and flats             | 9          |
| Temporary hutments                         | 24         |
| Total dwellings                            | <u>468</u> |

Applicants on Council's Housing Lists at 31st December, 1953:-

Operative 90

Deferred 84

174





New Dwellings - Provided by the Council.

|             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| To 1938     | 115                      |
| During 1939 | 0                        |
| 1946        | 2                        |
| 1947        | 8                        |
| 1948        | 40                       |
| 1949        | 28                       |
| 1950        | 70                       |
| 1951        | 39                       |
| 1952        | 12 + 8 Garages           |
| 1953        | 28 + 2 Shops & 4 Garages |
|             | <u>342</u>               |

At present occupied by approximately 1,100 persons.

ARREARS OF RENT.

| <u>Year ending</u> | <u>Total Rent Collectible</u> |    |   | <u>Arrears</u> |    |    | <u>Percentage</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----|---|----------------|----|----|-------------------|
|                    | £                             | s  | d | £              | s  | d  |                   |
| 31st March, 1952   | 21,671                        | 9  | 2 | 17             | 9  | 10 | 0.080             |
| 31st March, 1953   | 22,421                        | 15 | 6 | 20             | 13 | 6  | 0.092             |
| 31st March, 1954   | 24,202                        | 6  | 8 | 41             | 13 | 8  | 0.172             |

The post-war provision of houses and flats of good design has raised the standard of accommodation regarded as satisfactory and tenants of pre-war houses are becoming increasingly intolerant of badly placed stairways, antiquated cooking arrangements, portable baths, poor light and ventilation and outside W.C.'s.

This demand for improved accommodation can be met, in the main, only by way of subsidies, grants, advances and guarantees resulting in an increased rate for housing purposes.

Compared, on the grounds of essentiality, with the present cost of other rate borne services a substantial increase in this direction may be well justified.

Under-occupation continues to cause concern and although every endeavour has been made to persuade, among others, widows and widowers alone occupying three-bedroom houses to accept accommodation of a more suitable size, a number remain immovable.

A suggestion to withhold the benefits of subsidies in such cases would appear particularly harsh when the offenders are old age pensioners, yet compulsion seems to be the only practicable alternative.

By reason of temporary work at high wages, and optimism, some post-war houses are secured by tenants who subsequently suffer long spells of unemployment. Continued occupation with the aid of public assistance does cause resentment by many applicants in regular employment who have refused offers of post-war houses through inability to meet the rent demanded.

